

White-plumed Honeyeaters near Perth—On the morning of July 15, 1969 I was drawn from my study (at 10 Banksia Street, Joondanna—three miles NNW of the Perth G.P.O.) by a most unexpected bird call from my back garden. On investigating I was amazed to find in one of the tall eucalypts in the garden a pair of White-plumed Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga penicillata*). Each day since, to the date of reporting this note (July 18) they have not wandered far from the garden. Singing Honeyeaters (*M. virescens*) in number have been most agitated and have persecuted the newcomers without ceasing. However the White-plumed Honeyeaters have shown amazing adroitness in outflying and out-manoeuvring them and persisted in remaining in the area. The other common honeyeater, the Brown (*Lichmera indistincta*) has not bothered the newcomers.

The White-plumed Honeyeaters busied themselves feeding in the eucalypts and coral trees, now and again bursting forth in lovely fluid notes. On various occasions I have seen them alight on the lawn for bread that is always there for all comers, on the clothes hoist, the roof guttering and television antenna. They have been easy to call up and are by no means secretive.

Dr. D. L. Serventy arrived to see the birds, and after his visit an Australian Goshawk scattered all the birds in the area. However they all re-appeared, including the White-plumed Honeyeater, after the hawk left.

The previous recorded southern limit of the White-plumed Honeyeater was Moora.

—(Rev.) ARTHUR R. WILBREY, Wesley Manse, Joondanna.

Mr Wilbrey later reported that the White-plumed Honeyeaters remained until about July 30 when the owners of the land on which the coral trees were growing cut away the flowers and limbs. Apparently the honeyeaters then moved to other haunts. Prior to their disappearance friendlier relations developed between them and the Singing Honeyeaters.—Ed.

Little Egret at Mandurah.—In Western Australia the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) has rarely been recorded south of the Kimberly region and there is only one record for the South-West (J. Ford, in Serventy and Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*, 1967). At Mandurah, on April 4, 1969, I saw a Little Egret feeding in the shallow water covering one of the "island" mud flats upstream from the traffic bridge. When the bird stood erect, it stood about half as high as a White Egret (*Egretta alba*) in the vicinity. In flight its "bulk" was about half that of *E. alba* (flying) and approximated more the size of a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) in flight.

The legs and beak were black, the beak possibly being paler at base. When the bird flew by me in company with an *E. alba*, it was noted that the soles of the feet of *E. alba* were black while the soles of the feet of *E. garzetta* were conspicuously yellowish (or some similar colour).

On April 5, my wife and I located the same bird (presumably) in the lagoon east of the groynes lining the mouth of the Peel Inlet. Viewing conditions were better than on the previous day and a closer approach to the bird was possible.

It was noted that the bird had creamish coloured plumes over its back and the feet appeared to be black on top. A glimpse of the yellowish soles was sometimes obtained when the bird was walking directly away from us, both when it was in shallow water and on the shore.

Once when the bird was on the shore and had its neck in a folded position it appeared to walk underneath the tail of an *E. alba* standing quietly on the shore.

The *E. garzetta*, together with the *E. alba*, joined several White-faced Herons (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) in lining the shallow water of the shore when a feeding association of Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* and *P. sulcirostris*) and Silver Gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) forced numerous small fish into the shallows. It was noted that the *E. garzetta* was definitely slightly smaller and slenderer in build than the White-faced Herons.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wilson.

Mimicry in the Redthroat.—It is well-known that the Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*) can competently mimic the calls of other birds.

On April 6, 1963 I listened to the repertoire of a Redthroat in the bushland reserve surrounding the Kularin Dam, about six miles south of Jingymia, and was able to recognise some of the species whose calls it was mimicking. These were the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*), Twentyeight Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*), Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*), White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*), White fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*), Willy Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) Silvereye (*Zosterops gouldi*), Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*) and Mudlark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).

At Latham I noted that the Redthroat was able to mimic the Willy Wagtail so close to perfection that one had to be cautious about listing the latter species from its call only.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wilson.

Little Crow, *Corvus bennetti*, at Harvey.—Occasionally, eg. February 13, 1966, March 5, 1967 and March 13, 1967, I have seen flocks of *Corvus* of up to 100 individuals over Harvey. From information available in *Birds of Western Australia* (Serventy and Whittell) I assume these to have been flocks of Little Crow, but no further proof of identity was available.

On the morning of February 9, 1969, several birds, which appeared to me to be Little Crows, perched on the tops of trees behind my residence at a distance of about 40 yards. These remained preening while I observed them with a 20x telescope. The light was ideal for observation. As the birds preened, facing into a moderate east wind, the white bases of their neck and breast feathers were plainly visible. Under the circumstances there was no question of the "white" being a highlight on the gloss of the plumage.

One bird watched was a juvenile with brown irides and flesh-coloured gape.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.

Spread of Introduced Snails.—In January, 1968, I visited Smiths Beach, near Yallingup, for the first time. There I found both the Mediterranean Snail, *Theba pisana*, and the Dune Snail, *Cochlicella acuta*, well established in the dunes behind the beach.

The Dune Snail is now established at Bunbury and may be found in suitable habitat along the Ocean Beach at least from the breakwater to the surf club buildings i.e. throughout the whole area in which I made search.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.